

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130719
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AF-10 IO-14 ACDA-12 HA-05 CTME-00 ARA-14 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY SOFIA
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UNCLAS STATE 130719

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TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEW, CSCE, SHUM, PL, US, XH

SUBJECT: DAS LUERS' REMARKS TO US-POLISH ECONOMIC
COUNCIL, MAY 15, 1978

1. SUMMARY. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS SPOKE FOR
THE DEPARTMENT AT THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE US-
POLISH ECONOMIC COUNCIL SESSION MAY 15 IN WASHINGTON.
LUERS BEGAN BY SAYING HE WANTED TO PROVIDE A REPORT FROM
THE US POINT OF VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS WITH POLAND. HE
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PAGE 02 STATE 130719

SAID HE WOULD NOT READ A LONG SPEECH, NOR WOULD HE BE VERY
DIPLOMATIC. RATHER HE WOULD LIKE TO BE CANDID ABOUT US-
POLISH RELATIONS, THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES WE FACE,
AND THE ROLE OF THE US-POLISH ECONOMIC COUNCIL. THERE
FOLLOWS A NON-VERBATIM SUMMARY FROM NOTES TAKEN AT THE
TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DR. BRZEZINSKI SPOKE TO YOU EARLIER TODAY. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF US-POLISH RELATIONS, AND THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT, OF SECRETARY KREPS, OR OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO CONTINUE EXPANSION OF THESE RELATIONS. THIS IS NOT A NEW PHENOMENON. WE HAVE HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH POLAND FOR A LONG TIME, AND WE INTEND IT TO CONTINUE.

3. I WOULD LIKE NOW TO DESCRIBE THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THIS RELATIONSHIP. FIRST, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IN UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE THERE ARE SEVERE LIMITS ON BOTH SIDES AS TO HOW FAR WE CAN DEVELOP OUR TIES. WE HAVE DIFFERING SYSTEMS, DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHY, DIFFERING WORLD VIEWS, AND OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE WORLD ARE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL. THIS PRODUCES LIMITS ON WHAT OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS CAN ACCOMPLISH IN THEIR RELATIONS. THERE IS A SECOND LIMITATION AS WELL. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS EMPHASIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THAT OUR RELATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE ARE TO BE BASED ON THE NATURE OF OUR TIES WITH EACH COUNTRY. WE NO LONGER HAVE AN EASTERN EUROPEAN POLICY, BUT A POLICY TOWARD POLAND, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, AND SO FORTH, AND THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

4. THERE ARE UNCERTAINTIES IN THIS, BUT WE SHOULD LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEM. WHY SHOULD WE NOT HAVE PRODUCTIVE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 130719

RELATIONS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE?

5. NOW, THERE IS A SLIGHTLY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE AS WELL. OUR RELATIONS WITH POLAND CANNOT DEVELOP IN ISOLATION FROM US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE FACT IS THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION TODAY ARE MIXED. WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO SIGN A SALT AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR MANKIND, LET ALONE FOR US-POLISH RELATIONS. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF ARMS CONTROL. BUT WE ARE ALSO AT ODDS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH CANNOT BUT IMPACT ON OTHER ISSUES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE USE OF CUBANS IN AFRICA. ONE OF THE LIMITING FACTORS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH POLAND MUST BE THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE CAN WORK OUT A VIABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

6. NOW, REGARDING POLAND, WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP. WE RECOGNIZE POLAND'S ROLE IN EUROPE. WE HAVE HAD A LONGER AND MORE FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH IT THAN WITH ANY COUNTRY IN EASTERN EUROPE. BUT WE ARE NOW AT A POINT WHERE WE MUST FIND A DEEPER MEANING IN OUR

RELATIONSHIP. POLAND HAS DEVELOPED INTO ONE OF THE MOST OPEN COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE, IN SUCH AREAS AS INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM. WE HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN THIS. BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO. PRESIDENTIAL EXCHANGES, CABINET-LEVEL EXCHANGES, AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES CAN SERVE TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP. WE NOW FACE A PERIOD, HOWEVER, IN WHICH OUR INSTITUTIONS COME INTO CONFLICT. IT WILL REQUIRE WORK

AND COMPASSION ON BOTH SIDES TO RESOLVE THIS. TO A LARGE DEGREE--WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE US GOVERNMENT--THE US EFFORT MUST COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THAT IS WHY THE US-POLISH ECONOMIC COUNCIL IS SO IMPORTANT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 130719

7. IN SOME RESPECTS OUR PROBLEMS STEM FROM INSTITUTIONAL DIFFERENCES FOR WHICH YOU MUST WORK OUT SOLUTIONS. THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS, AND I HAVE DISCUSSED THEM WITH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF DIVIDED FAMILIES, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED. WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE FLOURISHING OF FREE THOUGHT IN POLAND OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES THERE WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP. WE MUST DISCUSS THESE ISSUES OPENLY AND WORK OUT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS. THERE IS NO COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE CAN BE MORE CANDID THAN WITH POLAND AND, INDEED, MORE SO THAN WITH MANY OF OUR TRADITIONAL ALLIES. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS.

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

Q. WHAT IS THE US GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD EXPANSION OF COOPERATION WITH POLAND IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, SPECIFICALLY TOWARD THE EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF CCC CREDITS?

A. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY LEGISLATION APPROVED WHICH EXTENDS THE CCC REPAYMENT TERMS. SECRETARY BERGLAND WILL BE TALKING IN WARSAW ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING CREDITS; WHETHER THIS WILL BE APPLIED TO GRAIN PURCHASES OR STORAGE FACILITIES, WE DO NOT KNOW. THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS FIRMLY BEHIND COOPERATION WITH POLAND. HE WILL ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FOR CREDITS AND OTHER IDEAS TO EXPAND COOPERATION TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND OPIC COVERAGE TO POLAND, TO SUPPORT THIRD COUNTRY JOINT VENTURES?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 130719

A. I MUST REFER THE QUESTION TO SOMEONE ELSE. THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT A JOINT-VENTURE APPROACH, BUT I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION ON OPIC AND LOOK INTO IT.

Q. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF RELAXATION OF EXPORT CONTROL REQUIREMENTS?

A. I UNDERSTAND WE ARE ABOUT TO COMPLETE A REVIEW OF THE EXPORT CONTROL LIST AND HOW IT IS CARRIED OUT. I HOPE THIS WILL LEAD TO MORE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF CASES WITH POLAND.

Q. HAS THE PRESIDENT GOTTEN A NEW POLISH INTERPRETER?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT QUESTION IS IN GOOD TASTE OR NOT.

Q. I AM FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE US AND POLAND ARE NOW NEGOTIATING A TOURISM AGREEMENT. HOW IS THIS COMING?

A. (POLISH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI): I EXPECT THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING AGREEMENT. END QUOTE.

9. IN CLOSING, LUERS PRAISED AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI, SAYING THAT IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WORK WITH HIM AND THAT HE IS ONE OF THE MOST PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS IN TOWN, AND LUERS SAID THAT POLAND HAS HONORED US BY SENDING TO WASHINGTON ONE OF ITS MOST PROFESSIONAL AND WISE DIPLOMATS. VANCE

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